

# OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB BULLETIN

VOL. 34, NO. 4

MARCH 1, 1979

HOTEL BILTMORE • 55 EAST 43RD STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10017 • (212) 687-2430

## OPC MOVING TO CHEMISTS' CLUB MARCH 1

The flag of the Overseas Press Club will — after eight years in mothballs — fly once again over our new home at 52 East 41st Street, New York City where we will share the premises of the Chemists' Club. It is a historic development that after 40 years, almost to the month, we are moving into our new premises March 1.

From our first OPC quarters, a rent-free cubicle off the mezzanine of the Gladstone Hotel between Park and Lexington Avenues — which has since disappeared — the Club has crisscrossed Manhattan many times in search of a home. Few of us will forget the charming old brownstone on 39th, or the cavernous building on 40th Street, and now we are returning to our old location — one block away from both — in the heart of New York City.

For the past several years there has been a steady erosion of our Club's appearance, its services and facilities at the Biltmore. In a survey of the membership in 1977, the great majority thought the food, service, etc., left much to be desired, and a House Operating Committee report rated the hotel's performance as "miserable."

The situation further was compounded by the existence of a 10-year lease, signed in 1974, containing a clause guaranteeing the Biltmore a daily lunch or dinner minimum of 85 covers — a condition never realized. This in turn resulted in the accumulation of an astronomic debt with the hotel management, complicating our bargaining position.

The turning point came in late spring of 1978 when the hotel was sold. A meeting with the new owners was arranged, as a result of which a short term lease — with a 3-months cancellation clause — was agreed upon, and the lunch/dinner cover clause was abrogated.

While the new owners were sympathetic to the Club, the existing malaise could not be corrected. The dining room no longer served dinner, and luncheon service was cancelled there-



Entrance to Chemists' Club, 52 East 41st St., NYC.

— Wagner International photo

after. In April 1977, the Monday buffet luncheon was cancelled and the 5-7 "happy hour" was eliminated. Charging privileges were discontinued and prices continued to increase — without prior consent of the Club. The morale of the membership was at an all-time low.

It was then that a Search Committee was activated under board member Al Wall, working with Ed Cunningham

and Charles Gillett, to sniff out availabilities in a tight real-estate market and a packed hotel situation. Even Club Manager Mary Novick looked at some real estate sites. Finally, in line with the Board's directive, the Search Committee brought the Chemists' Club to the attention of the Executive Committee, which promptly proceeded to enter detailed discussions and on-

(Continued on page 2)





Members bar and lounge, Chemists' Club, New York.

— Wagner International photo

site inspection with the host club's management.

After lengthy meetings the Executive Committee unanimously recommended to the Board to enter into binding negotiations with our future landlord.

The Chemists' Club, a ten-story building — recently renovated and redecorated from cellar to roof — was organized in November 1898 by 154 chemists, and in March 1911 the opening of the present clubhouse was celebrated. It has since grown in membership and in worldwide importance, and meets the professional and social standards of our own Club in every respect. Its facilities and services enumerated below reflect a combination of professionalism graced by courtesy and attention.

#### Open to members March 1st, 1979

Because of the recent decision of the Biltmore to discontinue luncheon and other services to our members, arrangements have been completed for all OPC members *whose 1979 dues are fully paid* to use these facilities, which are strictly on a charge basis, effective March 1. Any member wishing to use the Chemist's Club *must present at the Club's desk his 1979 OPC membership card* and he will be assigned a Chemist's Club charge number. He or she then will be accorded full charge privileges, payable ten days after the bill has been rendered.

#### Your new home-away-from-home

The OPC office on the 9th floor will house our administrative staff and files. Adjacent is another room housing the Club's memorabilia, paintings and placards, which will be used for occasions requiring special privacy.

### Meeting Rooms

The Chemist's Club has six comfortable rooms available for meetings of 10 to 100 people. Facilities such as slide projectors, screens, blackboards, a public address system and a tape recorder are available. Again, advance reservations are necessary for these facilities.

### Evening engagements

For OPC members who have evening engagements in town, the new club house has shower facilities where male members can shave and change into evening clothes. A member may then check his bag in the Club's checkroom. Clothes lockers can be (when available) rented by the month.

### Recreation

The main lounge and bar are open from 12 p.m. until 8:15 p.m. Monday through Friday, and each Wednesday there is a 5-7 happy hour — \$1.00 per drink — which includes a buffet.

### Room Accommodations

The Chemist's Club has 40 guest rooms, all of them air-conditioned and attractively furnished for use by members. Twenty-eight of the rooms are single and the remaining 12 are for double occupancy. Rates for the single rooms are from \$18.50 for rooms without bath, to \$22 daily for rooms with a shower and \$27 for rooms with a private bathroom and shower. Double rooms, all of which have adjoining baths, are available for \$35. Two-room suites also are available at \$48 for single occupancy and \$8 for a second

*(Continued on page 3)*

### Dining Rooms

There are three regular dining rooms, all located on the second floor and open Monday through Friday. Beginning with breakfast at 7 a.m. and until 8:30 p.m., a la carte service also is available between meals. Members may occupy any table, but there also will be a special OPC table for groups.

There are also six private dining rooms, where groups of six to over 100 people can be accommodated. Advance reservations for these rooms are requested. Coats and ties are required in all dining rooms.



One of nine dining rooms at the Chemists' Club.

— Wagner International photo



Mr. Robert Gutwillig  
President and Editor  
Look Magazine  
150 East 58 Street  
New York, N.Y. 10022

February 14, 1979

Dear Sir:

When you accepted our invitation to address the members of this Club at a luncheon, we did not expect the rude and tasteless manner in which you and your associates failed to honor this commitment.

Over the past four decades we have had many events of significantly greater importance than the launching of another magazine. We did, in fact, put our welcome mat out for you, but we have never experienced anything as insulting to our members as your shabby conduct — and the bad taste it left with many of us.

I am not interested in your "explanations" — there were too many of them — and too many unanswered telephone calls, but I will insist on your written apology to our members to be published in the next issue of the *OPC Bulletin* as part of a report to the Club's membership.

Very truly yours,  
Henry Gellermann  
President

cc: John Durniak, Managing Editor  
Look Magazine  
Daniel Filipacchi, Chairman of  
Publications Filipacchi

## Awards Judges Named

Judges for the Overseas Press Club's 1978 Annual Awards have been announced by *Robert E. Sheridan*, Awards Committee Chairman. Deadline for entries at the Club's headquarters in the Hotel Biltmore (43rd & Madison Avenue, New York) is March 1, 1979. Presentations will be made on May 10, 1979.

Categories and judges are:

**Class 1 Hal Boyle Award** for the best daily newspaper or wire service reporting from abroad, and

**Class 2 Bob Considine Award** for best daily newspaper or wire service interpretation of foreign affairs:

Judges Chairman *Henry C. Cassidy*; *Rosalind Massow* and *Alfred Balk*.

**Class 3 Robert Capa Gold Medal** for the best photographic reporting or interpretation from abroad requiring exceptional courage and enterprise, and

**Class 4 Best** photographic reporting from abroad:

Judges Co-chairmen *Barrett Gallagher* and *Charles Rotkin*; *Francis Brennan*, John Durniak, John G. Morris, Arthur Rothstein and Arnold Drapkin.

**Class 5 Ben Grauer Award** for the best radio spot from abroad, and

**Class 6 Lowell Thomas Award** for the best radio interpretation of foreign news:

Judges Chairman *Howard L. Kany*; *A.L. Seton*.

**Class 7 Best** tv spot news reporting from abroad, and

**Class 8 Edward R. Murrow Award** for best tv interpretation or documen-

tary on foreign affairs:

Judges Chairman *Jacob H. Jaffe*.

**Class 9 Mary Hemingway Award** for the best magazine reporting from abroad, and

**Class 10 Best** magazine interpretation of foreign affairs:

Judges Co-chairpersons *Jean Baer* and *Grace Naismith*; *Meyer Lurie* and *Sam Summerlin*

**Class 11 Best** cartoon on foreign affairs (\$150) *New York Daily News*:

Judges Chairman *Burne Hogarth*.

**Class 12 Best** business news reporting from abroad:

Judges Chairman *George Bookman*; *Margaret Klein*, *Rob Sunde* and *Al Wall*.

**Class 13 Cornelius Ryan Award** for best book on foreign affairs:

Judges Chairperson *Anita Diamant Berke*; *Hallie Burnett*, *Kenneth Giniger*, *Alex Liepa*, *Carol Smith* and *Grace Shaw*.

**Class 14 Madeline Dane Ross Award** (\$400) for international reporting in any medium that demonstrates a concern for humanity:

Judges Chairperson *Julia Edwards*; *Marguerite Cartwright* and *Larry Stessin*.

## Up-and-coming

Thursday, March 15, 5:30 p.m. — St. Patrick's Day Party.

Wednesday, March 21, 5:30 p.m. — Shop Talk with Allan Neuharth, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of Gannett Newspapers. Mr. Neuharth is also president of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

(Continued from page 2)

person. Early reservations needed.

We have travelled a long and difficult road to our new home. There are still some problems to be solved — litigation with Realty Hotels is one, and some smaller ones — but we shall weather them.

I am confident that, if it were not for the loyalty of our members, an abundance of volunteer talent, a dedicated Executive Committee and an active Board of Governors, we probably would not be around to observe our 40th anniversary in our new home.

Respectfully yours,  
Henry Gellermann  
President

## Trans Union Corporation

is an international transportation services company with offices around the world. It leases rail cars in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and the U.K., charts LASH and conventional ships and helps U.S. and foreign companies transport and market products abroad. The growth-oriented company also is active in water pollution control, condominium land development, credit service bureaus and finance leasing.

Helping tell the story of  
Trans Union Corporation  
and other business leaders is the business of

## Burson-Marsteller

PUBLIC RELATIONS/PUBLIC AFFAIRS

NEW YORK • CHICAGO • LOS ANGELES •  
WASHINGTON • PITTSBURGH • TORONTO  
BRUSSELS • FRANKFURT • GENEVA • LONDON •  
PARIS • STOCKHOLM • STUTTGART  
HONG KONG • SINGAPORE •  
TOKYO • KUALA LUMPUR



## OPC BULLETIN

Published on the 1st and 15th of each month by the Overseas Press Club of America, Inc. Air-mailed to members overseas. First-class mail to others.

John Guenther, Chairman and Editor; Helen Alpert, Matt Bassity, Ruth Biemiller, George Burns, Blythe Foote Finke, Ben G. Frank, Thomas J. Kraner, Ralph Leviton, Rosalind Moore, Grace Naismith, Rebecca Riger.



The Nominating Committee has named the following candidates for the seven Active and one Associate spot on the Board of Governors to be filled in the April election (asterisk indicates incumbent).

#### ACTIVE

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Mark Appleman    | Thomas J. Kraner    |
| Alfred Balk*     | Harry Rand          |
| Ruth Biemiller*  | Roy Rowan           |
| Kenneth Giniger* | Robert E. Sheridan* |
| James Hanchett*  | Russell Tornabene   |
| Howard Kany      | Albert Wall*        |
| Robert Kleiman   | Robert Essman       |

#### ASSOCIATE

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| David Fluhrer | Norman Schorr |
| Laurie Nadel  | Gloria Watson |

Under OPC by-laws (Art. XI, Sec. 3), additional nominations may be made by petition. A petition for each candidate must be signed by no fewer than 40 eligible members, active or associate, depending on the nominees' classification. Each petition must be delivered in person to the secretary or mailed and postmarked not later than eleven (11) days after the date of *The Bulletin's* issue which contains the Nominating Committee's list of candidates. Accordingly, this year's petition must be delivered or mailed by March 12, 1979.

Respectfully submitted,  
George Bookman, Chairman

Committee Members

Helen Alpert, Jean Baer,  
Ed Cunningham, Herbert  
Kupferberg, Rosalind  
Massow, J. Robert Moskin

## Neuharth Guest At March 21 'Shop Talk'

The news-and views as seen from the executive suite of one of the nation's biggest newspaper chains will be the subject of a novel Shop Talk at the OPC on Wednesday, March 21, at 5:30 P.M. The speaker, no stranger to the lofty environment of the journalist's world, will be Allan Neuharth, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of the Gannett Newspapers. Mr. Neuharth is also President of the American Newspaper Publishers Association.

## LETTERS

News of the death of Joe Alex Morris Jr. while on duty in Iran comes as a personal shock. While I did not know him, I was a classmate at Missouri of his father when we both worked on the *Savitar*, the university yearbook. This tragedy verifies the veracity of "The First Casualty", which goes into detail on an extremely hazardous profession, usually resulting in a 21-gun salute instead of academic recognition as a so-called molder of public opinion, today's civilization being what it is.

—Albert Keshen

The Islands Research Foundation announces the formation of the MacArthur Memorial Library to maintain informational services relating to "all islands with a name" in compliance with the wishes of General Douglas MacArthur, honorary President of the Foundation from 1959 to 1964.

Temporary quarters are maintained at 108 Prospect Towers, 45 Tudor City Place, New York, N.Y. 10017.

Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.  
Hotel Biltmore, 55 East 43rd Street  
New York, N.Y. 10017

## St. Patrick's Day Party March 15

The leprechauns will romp in OPC Clubrooms Thursday, March 15, to usher in New York's glorious St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Irish music will be the order of the evening, jigs and reels will be permitted, and the Irish tradition of taking a bit of a nip, just to keep out the cold and dampness, will be dutifully observed. Time: 5:30, Donation \$2.

The Hospitality Committee, riding the momentum of popular Christmas and Valentine Day parties, has already accumulated gifts, favors and door prizes, said chairman *Helen Lund*.

## Joe Alex Morris, Jr. Killed in Iran

Joe Alex Morris Jr., foreign correspondent for *The Los Angeles Times* and a former member of the Overseas Press Club, was killed Feb. 10 in Teheran.

Morris was hit by a stray bullet fired through the window of a photographer's studio where he was observing an armed clash between cadets of the Iranian Air Force and troops loyal to the deposed Shah at the Farahabad air base on the outskirts of Teheran.

In a thirty-year career reporting wars and revolutions, Morris covered the India-Pakistani war in 1965, the Egypt-Israel war of 1967 and the civil war in Lebanon. He won the OPC's George Polk award for his coverage of the Egyptian-Israeli conflict.

President *Henry Gellermann* represented the OPC at memorial services for Mr. Morris in Guildford, Conn.

